

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 10-11 and 17-18 are cancelled, and claims 3, 5, 7, 14 and 20 are amended. Claims 4, 6, 8-9, 12-13, 15-16, 19 and 21 remain in the application. Thus, claims 3-9, 12-16 and 19-21 are active in the application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully suggested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, that the application is in condition for allowance except for canceling non-elected claims 1-2, 10-11 and 17-18 and for amending claims 3, 5, 7, 14 and 20 in order to overcome the informalities identified in item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action.

As described above, non-elected claims 1-2, 10-11 and 17-18 have each been cancelled. Claims 3, 5, 7, 14 and 20 have each been amended according to the suggested claim amendments which the Examiner kindly provided.


Accordingly, by canceling non-elected claims 1-2, 10-11 and 17-18 and by amending each of claims 3, 5, 7, 14 and 20 to overcome the identified informalities, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

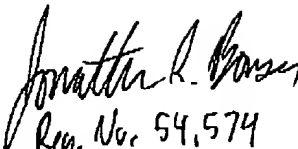
If, after reviewing this Response, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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